



GRACE *and* ST. STEPHEN'S
✦ EPISCOPAL CHURCH ✦

Grace Notes ~ July 8, 2026

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Parish Admin Update



I am thrilled to share with you all that we've hired Sarah Sisson as our Parish Administrator.

I am grateful to Mark Basenberg, Marsha Fogarty, and Russell Moses who helped in reviewing the several dozen applications we received and for being a part of the interviews. Sarah brings great experience and energy and I'm looking forward to having her join the team.

Sarah will start this coming Tuesday and will be in the office Monday through Friday, usually from 9-5.

Please join me in welcoming Sarah!

Faithfully,
Father Robert

The Ordination of The Rev. Michael Fenn

Wednesday, July 15 at 5:30 pm

The Rev. Michael Fenn will be ordained as a Priest by Bishop Kym Lucas at Grace and St. Stephen's on Wednesday, July 15 at 5:30pm with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

The Episcopal Church (along with Orthodox churches and Roman Catholicism) follows the ancient pattern of the three-fold order for ordinations of deacon, priest, bishop. It is a treasured tradition that reminds the Church (and clergy) that all ordained ministry is rooted and grounded in service and proclaiming the Gospel.



Sweets For Reception Following Ordination

We invite you to help us celebrate the ordination of The Rev. Michael Fenn with a reception following the service on Wednesday, July 15.

There are two simple ways you can help make this joyful occasion a success:

- Bring a dessert to share with the congregation.
- Stay after the reception to help with cleanup, so we can quickly restore the parish hall.

Whether you love to bake, prefer to pick up a favorite treat from a local bakery, or can lend a hand at the end of the evening, your help will be greatly appreciated.



If you are able to contribute, please [sign up](#) here. Thank you for helping us extend a warm Grace & St. Stephen's welcome as we celebrate this special milestone in Deacon Michael's ministry!

Wrap Someone in Prayer!



Prayer shawls are available for distribution on the Blaik library table. Any GSSE parishioner may give a shawl to anybody (recipient does not need to be a parishioner). Please fill in the giver and recipient information in the shawl ministry records book when you pick up a shawl. If desired, you can request prayers by the Daughters of the King, also in the records book.

Consider delivering a prayer shawl to comfort someone who is:

- Undergoing medical procedures, chemotherapy, infusion therapy
- In the hospital, nursing home, assisted living, or in hospice care
- Suffering physically, mentally, spiritually
- Needs comfort and healing
- Celebrating a birth, wedding, etc.

We blessed 3 new shawls on Sunday and have several available in the library. Donations are gratefully accepted so we can purchase additional yarn.

Prayer Shawl Ministry next meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month, at 4 pm in the Blaik library. Please join us for fellowship, knitting, crocheting, or other hand crafts (snacks provided). For additional information, please contact [Pat Wallace](#).

Appreciation: Pat would like to thank all the folks who are knitting and/or crocheting shawls.

Getting to Know The Rev. Michael Fenn

👋 Meet The Rev. Michael Fenn!

We're excited to welcome Deacon Michael as our new Assistant Rector at Grace and St. Stephen's! Over the next few weeks, we'll be sharing a series of articles to help you get to know him a little better—from his journey to ministry and his favorite hobbies to fun facts, meaningful memories, and what he's most looking forward to in this new chapter with our parish family. Welcome, Deacon Michael—we're glad you're here!



Massachusetts born and raised

I grew up in a city called Medford, Massachusetts—where my family has lived for many years since immigrating from Ireland and Italy. I grew up in a house with my parents, my brother and sister, different grandparents and cousins, and lots of pets. My house growing up was a house where many people were welcomed, and friends and family knew they could drop in for dinner or a quick visit. It was often loud and lively, but also very loving and interesting.



What is Education for Ministry?



Education for Ministry (EfM) lives at the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewane, Tennessee. Although the word Ministry is capitalized, the program is to help the members go out into the world- trying to minister in small ways. It is a unique, small-group formation program based on study and practice in theological reflection. It helps participants all over the world to:

- Connect with others in a faith-based community of curious explorers.
- Reflect and respond to our scripture and great theological thinkers and leaders.
- Reflect weekly on how God may be speaking to you about your faith journey.
- Discover your unique gifts and how they might serve God.

EfM “Classic”

EfM Classic is divided up into four years of study. When you sign up, you are not committed to all four years.

Year 1- The Old Testament

Year 2- The New Testament

Year 3- Church History

Year 4- Ethics and Spirituality

EfM Wide Angle One Year Program

For those who are curious about EfM or are EfM graduates, you may want to try this new one-year course. In Wide Angle, you will get to read some wonderful books written by authors like Rachel Held-Evan, Rowan Willimas, and Joan Chittister.

Where Grace and St. Stephen’s will have an EfM group that will begin in September.

When The EfM group will meet on Monday mornings from 9:00 to 11:30.

If you would like to know more about EfM or Sewanee Theological Seminary, you can visit their [website](#). Questions? Contact [Martha Basenberg](#)

Episcopalians for Mercy & Justice

Join your fellow Episcopalians the 3rd Wed of each month for a vigil at the GEO Detention Center! **WEAR RED to identify our group!** Contact [Helen Hazelton](#) for more information.



Join **Episcopalians for Mercy and Justice** every 3rd Wednesday of the Month. Show up to demand accountability, speak against injustice, and listen to the current situation at GEO.

GEO DETENTION CENTER WEDNESDAY VIGIL



Every 3rd
Wednesday
of the
month!

June 17th, July 15th, August 19th
@ 6pm



GEO Detention Center:
3130 N Oakland St, Aurora, CO





Episcopalians for Justice and Mercy Picnic

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
2:00-4:30 PM

City Park Picnic Shelter 2
North of the playground,
Enter via 23rd Ave West
of the Zoo

Please bring a side dish or dessert to
share, and lawn chairs or blankets for
seating. Drinks and a grilled main will be
provided. Please send to RSVPs by July
30th to justice@stbdenver.org

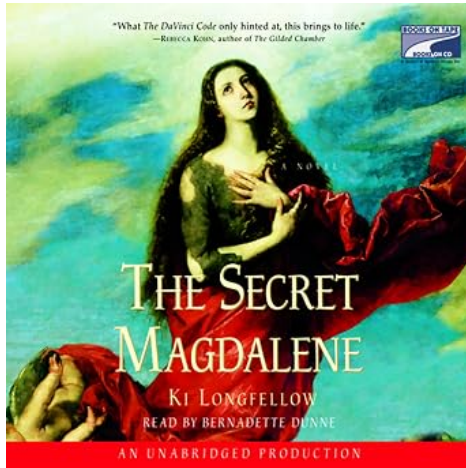
Diocesan Youth Council Applications Now Open



Would you like to have a voice in your ministry? Would you like leadership, speaking, and event planning experience? Apply for the diocesan youth council (YOCO) and join this dynamic team that has a voice in all youth ministry in Colorado. We meet regularly to plan all retreats and overnight events, and promote youth ministry at the Annual Convention of the

Episcopal Church in Colorado. We also have a ton of fun. Youth Council members have input on YES Trips locations and content, pilgrimages, and one-day mission events. YOCO is an opportunity for youth who are active in their church ministries and youth group, have a firm foundation in their faith, and are ready for a larger voice in their own ministry. Please [submit your applications](#) by July 27; announcements will be made by July 30. The first YOCO meeting will be held August 15, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, all other information will be shared upon acceptance. We look forward to reading your applications.

Women's Book Group Summer Reading



Please join us in reading the biblical fiction book *The Secret Magdalene* by Ki Longfellow

This book will be discussed in its entirety on August 25th at 10am in Blake Library.

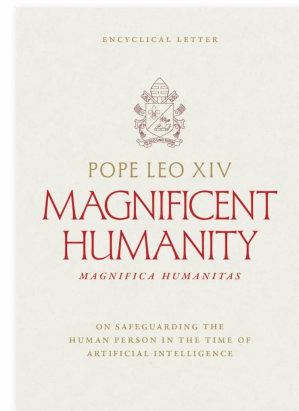
Ki Longfellow's "*The Secret Magdalene*" offers a mesmerizing account of Mariamne of Magdala (known as Mary Magdalene) and her astonishing journey from ardent pupil to teacher and companion of the most famous man in history - Jesus of Nazareth. Much has been written about Mary Magdalene but Ms Longfellow's book is perhaps the most worthy addition to the fiction canon of her life, both in its breathtaking scope, meticulous research, and

expert mixture of Gnostic philosophy with grand historical fiction. Framed as the narrative scrolls of Mariamne, she tells her story with wit, sensitivity and spirit, from her travels with her father's ward Salome into Alexandria, where they absorb mysterious religious philosophies, to their return to Jerusalem and their life-altering relationships with Jesus and John the Baptist and Mariamne's emergence as a prophet in her own right. Eschewing the legend of redeemed prostitute and delving far beyond the traditional Biblical tale, Longfellow immerses us in the daily life, travails, and spiritual awakening of an intelligent woman and leader, whose mystic appeal continues to enthrall us centuries after her death.

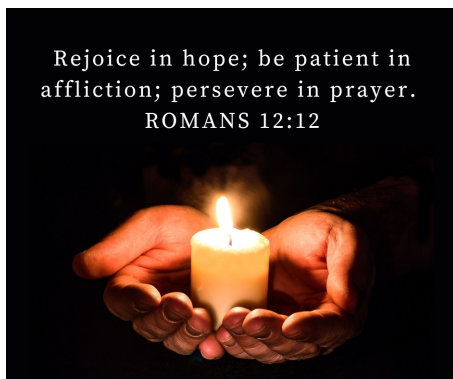
Men's Book Group: How Should Christians Approach AI?

This summer, men's book club tackles how we as Christians should approach artificial intelligence (AI). We'll read and discuss critiques from leaders in different traditions, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, as well as arguments from pro-AI optimists. We'll then dedicate ourselves to reflecting upon Pope Leo's new encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*—a physical copy of which will be provided to all group members.

The group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6pm at Goat Patch Brewing, 2727 N Cascade Ave. Contact [Phil Hensel](#) for details.



Prayer List



Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.
ROMANS 12:12

Those in crisis of health or circumstance:
Debbie Barents, Kristin Brown, David Buckley, Ed Quinn, Anne Trinajstich

Those who have died and those who grieve:
Laura Bayless, Sister of Rebecca Theobald

Those in need of ongoing prayer: Ted Arnn, Gail Ash, Sallie Beattie, Judy Couchman, Conni Eggers, Stuart Eyman, Eunice Ferguson, Staci Fox, Barb Good, John Hough, Annika Johnson, Maggi Johnson, Sheilah Johnson, Dorothy Kipp, Al Larson, Alex Lindberg, Leigh MacHaffie,

Devon Mack, John McVicker, Debra Millsap, Sinnikka Pember-Coulter, Elizabeth Phillips, KJ Ramsey, Edie Reichert, Frank Shelton, Kitty Taylor, Carol Townsley, Jill Wasinger, Pam White, Susan Willet, Alice, Jennifer, Nancy, Nick H., Oliver & Family, Piper, Wes

Those in harm's way: William Brown, Mark Jaskot, Frederick Jones, Bill Mack, Rachel Pearson, Adam Tahyar, Thomas Ward, Nicholas Wolf

This Week's Happenings

Wednesday 7/8

- **Holy Eucharist**, 5pm, St. Stephen's Chapel
- **Men's Book Club: Optimistic Perspectives on AI**, 6pm, Goat Patch Brewing

Thursday 7/9

- **Morning Prayer**, 9am, on Facebook
- **No Centering Prayer this week!**

Friday 7/10

- **Chanted Noonday Prayer**, 12pm, St. Stephen's Chapel
- **Jazz in the Garden: Henrique de Almeida and the Truth Project Band**, 7pm, Memorial Garden



Sunday 7/12

- **Rite I Holy Eucharist**, 8am, Nave
- **Nursery Available**, 9am -12pm
- **Rite II Choral Eucharist**, 10:30am, Nave
- **Thank You Reception for Susan Paulson, Interim Organist**, 12pm, Taft Hall

Monday 7/13

- **Noonday Prayer with the Anglican Rosary**, 12pm, St. Stephen's Chapel
- **Outreach Meeting**, 5:30pm, Taft Hall

Tuesday 7/14

- **Morning Prayer**, 9am, on Facebook
- **Salsa Dancing with Lambarado**, 5pm Salsa Beginners, 6:15 Salsa Level 2, Parish Hall

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